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ASSESSMENT OF LEGAL DEPOSITORY PRACTICES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA AND COMPLIANCE OF PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS WITH LEGAL DEPOSIT OBLIGATIONS

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Abstract

The study assessed the legal depository practices of the National Library Nigeria (NLN) and compliance of publishers and authors with legal deposit obligations. Three objectives guided the study. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The instruments for data collection comprised questionnaire and checklist. A combination of purposive and complete census sampling techniques were used for data collection. For data analysis, the study adopted descriptive and inferential statistics, using mean and standard deviation, simple percentage was used for the observation checklist, while the null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 degree of significance using ANOVA. The findings revealed 15 available legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria. The findings also revealed that the effectiveness of the National Library of Nigeria legal depository practices is less as only five out of the fifteen items studied were rated highly effective. The findings on effectiveness of the NLN in enhancing compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations revealed high level of effectiveness as out of 9 items studied, five were rated highly effective, with cluster mean of 2.50. However, the cluster mean of 2.50 revealed the need for the Agency to improve on her legal depository practices and efforts at enhancing compliance. Recommendations were made and the study concluded that where effectiveness of legal depository practices are on low extent and ineffective compliance, many of the country's publication output would not be collected, which invariably affects timely production of National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN), which is a by-product of legal deposit. The study therefore provided an empirical evidence supporting comprehensive and timely collection of legal deposit. Thus, the strengths and weakness identified makes it necessary for the National Library of Nigeria to apply the recommendations, so as to engender an improved legal depository practices and compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations.

Keywords: Legal depository practices, Assessment, National Library of Nigeria, compliance, publishers, authors, legal deposit obligations.

Introduction

National libraries are responsible for acquiring information resources published in their countries of domain and making them available to their citizens and also users outside their countries, thereby enhancing access to information nationally and globally through their legal depository practices. Lor (1997) opined that national libraries have the responsibility of provision of access to publications and information, however distant they may be. According to the author, the IFLA/ UNESCO programme of universal availability of publications (UAP) confers on every country the responsibility to make copies of its own publications available within and beyond its borders. The National Library of Nigeria as the apex library of the nation and the bibliographic agency is therefore responsible for collection and preservation in all

formats, the record of intellectual output of Nigerians, and maintains the key objective of making such information accessible to the citizenry and beyond. This is achieved majorly through legal depository practices, which form part of the bibliographic control efforts of the National Library of Nigeria.

Collection of legal deposit and also enhancing compliance of publishers and authors with legal deposit obligations through the enforcement of the law engenders effective legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria. Since 1970, the National Library of Nigeria has been responsible for collection of legal deposit of the country's publication output. The National Library of Nigeria equally developed modalities for enhancement of compliance of publishers and authors, as any law that is not enforced cannot be called law in its right sense and cannot also achieve its purpose of enactment.

According to Lariviere (2000), legal deposit is defined as 'a statutory obligation which requires that any organisation, commercial, or public, and any individual producing any form of documentation in multiple copies, be obliged to deposit one or more copies with a recognised national institution' p.3. Omolayole (2003) and Nwosu (2013) opined that section 4 of the National Library Act No.29 of 1970 confers on the library the depository obligation of the nation with the implication that resources published in the country must be deposited in the National Library of Nigeria. The authors also asserted that the legal deposit law prescribes the number of copies of publications to be deposited with the NLN, which comprises 3 copies of commercially produced book, 10 copies of publications by or on behalf of a state government, and 25 copies of Federal government publications. It is stated that two copies of such publications should be kept in the NLN for permanent preservation, while one copy should be submitted to the University College, Ibadan (presently, University of Ibadan), for continuity.

Legal depository practices can be defined as all the activities carried out by the national libraries in order to ensure comprehensive collection of legal deposit of national publication output. It also encompasses efforts put in place to enhance compliance of publishers and authors to the law/obligation. The practices comprise engaging in sensitization of publishers and authors on the importance/benefits of legal deposit and the need for compliance to the law. This is carried out during assignment of international standard book numbers (ISBNs) and international standard serial numbers (ISSNs), and also at periodic sensitization workshops organised by the bibliographic agency for publishers, authors and other stakeholders in the book trade; and embarking on regular legal deposit drives. Others include creating legal deposit awareness through posters and handbills; using electronic media to sensitize the public on legal deposit law and obligation; ensuring that the international standard book numbers (ISBNs) assigned are

commensurate with the number of legal deposit collected; decentralization of collection of legal deposit, which enables State branches to collect at their various States and forward the copies to the National Library of Nigeria Headquarters; and insisting that no publisher or author collects ISBN without presenting acknowledgement letters for the legal deposit made on the previously assigned ISBNs, among others.

Assessment of legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria and enhancement of compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligation is pivotal so as to determine the extent and effectiveness of legal deposit practices and efforts at enhancing compliance. This is sequel to Hufford (2013) and Verzoa in Igwe (2014) study, which revealed that assessment in Library and Information Science is a management tool, applied to determine how effectively and efficiently the library is serving the needs of its users, and also to determine the limitations so as to recommend ways of improvement on such service. Thus, through assessment, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the National Library of Nigeria's effective legal deposit practices and compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations will be determined; and decisions on repositioning strategies taken, so as to ensure comprehensive collection of legal deposit materials and ensure public access to information and information resources.

Statement of the problem

It is noted that the first step in bibliographic control practices which is the identification and collection of what has been published in a country would be easily achieved once legislation is in place and the relevant government agency established for the receipt of such publications. The National Library Act No 29 of 1970 section 4 sub-sections 1-7, according to the National Library of Nigeria (2012) as stated in the *National Bibliography of Nigeria 2010 Edition*, therefore confers on the National Library of Nigeria the depository obligation and states the role of publishers and authors in this regard. The enabling Act also stipulated the number of copies to be deposited by the three categories of publishers, penalty for non-compliance, exemptions, and equally specified what constitutes a 'book'.

Effective legal depository practices guarantee the citizens and researchers nationally and globally of access to collection of the nation's published resources. This is possible and can be successfully implemented with the positive and committed participation of the legal depository library, publishers and authors, as stakeholders. However, it has been noted from empirical studies that legal deposit law has not been effectively implemented in Nigeria, and publishers and authors have not been effectively complying with their legal deposit obligations. This brings the quest to assess the effectiveness of the legal depository practices of the National Library of

Nigeria and compliance of publishers and authors with legal deposit obligations; in order to identify the weaknesses and therefore recommend the way forward for improved practices. This is against the backdrop that effective legal depository practices and compliance will bring about effective bibliographic control of national publication output and thereby enhance public access to information nationally and globally and ultimate realization of universal bibliographic control and universal availability of publications.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are to:

1. find out the legal depository practices available in the National Library of Nigeria (NLN).
2. ascertain the effectiveness of National Library of Nigeria (NLN) legal depository practices.
3. establish the effectiveness of the NLN in enhancing compliance of publishers and authors to legal depository obligations.

Test of Hypothesis

1. H01. There is no significant difference in the professionals, para-professionals and non-professionals' mean ratings of legal deposit obligations and ensuring compliance.

Literature Review

Acquisition of published resources through legal deposit according to Lariviere (2000) and Lor in Penzhorn (2007) is intended to serve as the essential foundation for recording everything produced in a country in the form of a comprehensive national bibliography. Collection of legal deposit is very important in order to ensure effective bibliographic control practices of any bibliographic agency. Thus, National Library of Nigeria, as a bibliographic control agency is responsible for national bibliographic control in the universal bibliographic control network aimed at achieving universal availability of publications. Scott in Lariviere (2000) revealed that 'the role of national libraries in ensuring universal and equitable access to information continues to be a cornerstone in the development of a knowledge society' (p.vii). The author also averred that national libraries are saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that the published heritage/output of their country is acquired and preserved for all to use; and one important instrument in assisting national libraries meet this statutory responsibility is legal deposit.

Legal deposit can therefore be defined as 'a statutory obligation which requires that any organisation, commercial, or public, and any individual producing any form of documentation in multiple copies, be obliged to deposit one or more copies with a recognised national institution'

(Lariviere 2000: p.3). The author stated that collecting legal deposit is a veritable means of building up a national collection of both print and non-print information resources so as 'to secure the preservation of the national cultural heritage for posterity and for transmission of the national heritage by storing it and making it available now and for the future generations'. Legal deposit can also be viewed as a statutory provision which obliges publishers to deposit copies of their publications in designated libraries in the country where they are published. It is the responsibility of publishers and authors (for author-published works) as it extends not only to commercial publishers but also to private individuals, clubs, churches, societies, associations and organisations to do the depositing.

Lariviere (2000) posited that the development of a legal deposit collection of published resources in its broadest sense depends on a legislative foundation in order to ensure publishers' compliance; and that the legislation must also be enforceable for it to be taken seriously by depositors. Akidi (2017) opined that it is obvious that fundamental to the achievement of the National Library of Nigeria's mission of bibliographic control is the collection of published works of the country; and this is achievable through an enabling law called legal deposit law. In the same vein, Fourie and Burger (2007:2) affirmed that for bibliographic control to be effective, there need to be: Legal deposit legislation; and a regulatory, controlling and advisory body, among others. National Library of Nigeria is the depository library of the country and thus, is responsible for collecting, preserving and providing access to the written and cultural heritage of the citizenry, about Nigeria and published in Nigeria. In addition, while it is necessary to have legal deposit based on legislation, the involvement of publishers is desirable to engender the conviction of the critical benefits derivable in systematically depositing copies of their published information resources to a national institution responsible for recording and preserving them for present and future generations. Thus, national libraries through their legal depository practices, adopt modalities/ means of enhancement of compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations, so as to make the law enforceable.

The modalities adopted by the National Library of Nigeria involve the implementation of the UNESCO (1991) guidelines for the collection of legal deposit of information resources, which were incorporated into the National Library of Nigeria Act No 29 of 1970. The guidelines stipulate that the means of collection of legal deposit shall be through 'visits to publishers during legal deposit drives; examination of announcements and advertisements in national and local newspapers; liaising with government departments and government printers; establishment of an effective clerical routine registration, receipts, checks, and follow ups'; and also collecting information resources during book fairs and book launches. Others include direct delivery by

publishers to any of the National Library of Nigeria offices nationwide; collection of legal deposit through the post; use of posters, hand bills and appeals on the electronic media, which Akidi (2017) opined, reminds the publishers, authors and printers of their obligations and ginger them to comply. The author also added that National Library of Nigeria also adopts enlightenment of publishers and authors at the point of collecting ISBN, ISSN and preparation of CIP data, which enables them to promptly comply by bringing the legal deposit copies immediately the publication is out so as to give them the opportunity of collecting more international standard numbers. In corroboration, Omolayole (2003) revealed that in fulfillment of the legal deposit objectives, the National Library of Nigeria over the years has created awareness of legal deposit law through embarking on public enlightenment through organising seminars, workshops, and conferences targeted at the book sector operators, and equally committed considerable resources to legal deposit drives, among others.

The National Library Act No 29 of 1970, section four (4) subsection seven (7) (a-e) according to National Library of Nigeria (2012) specifies the kind of information resources to be deposited to the National Library by stating that 'book' includes a literary work like books, pamphlets, sheets of music (musical scores), maps, charts, plans, tables and compilations; dramatic works; collective works like encyclopaedias, dictionaries, yearbooks, newspapers, magazines and similar periodicals. It also includes any work written in distinct parts by authors or in which a part or parts of work of different authors is or are incorporated and every part or division of such work; and all forms in which documentary or oral records are published. This is corroborated by Nwosu (2013), who maintained that the unique feature of the legal deposit provision is its exhaustiveness as it encompasses "all forms in which documentary or oral records are published" (p.4). The author also emphasized that the enabling Act also specified that 'the copies to be deposited must be perfect and of the best edition of the issue, regardless of the cost', and also specified certain sanctions or punishment for non-compliance with the legal deposit provisions which is a fine of 50 pounds in addition to eventual deposit of the required copies or payment to the Director of the National Library of the value of the copies' (Nwosu, 2013: p. 5). The author equally maintained that the legal deposit law of the National Library of Nigeria also made provision for exemptions as it has a waiver to exempt any publisher or resource from the operations of sub-sections 1 and 2 as contained in sub-section 5.

In South Africa, Lariviere (2000) study revealed that the objects of legal deposit comprise print resources, which include books, serials, pamphlets, music scores, government publications, maps, iconographic materials (photos, post cards, posters, engravings, etc) and non-print resources, which include microforms, audio-visual resources, broadcast resources and

electronic resources such as CD-ROMs, diskettes and online resources. The author also maintained that the advent of new formats, including digital/electronic publications, has raised new issues, making it imperative for digital /electronic publications to be included as part of a national library's heritage collection. The author also opined that the digital environment is however, challenged by technical, organisational, and legal problems, which are hopefully surmountable.

The Policy Guideline for the Legal Deposit of Sound and Audiovisual Recordings (2011) identified the purpose of legal deposit to include: assisting in current and future research; ensuring the availability of published information resources to the users even when it is no longer possible to acquire it in any other way; providing a means of compiling the national bibliography of published information resources; and helping in maintenance of a national published archive. IFLA Statement on legal deposit (2011) added that legal deposit supports preservation of nation's documentary heritage, and is also fundamental to freedom of information and perpetuation of an informed citizenry, among others. Ezema (2009) opined that the primary purpose of legal deposit is to enable national libraries build a comprehensive collection of publications reflecting the nation's history and culture despite budget constraints. Thus, legal deposit collection ensures that comprehensive information resources are available to researchers and other library users, making legal deposit a veritable tool for bibliographic control of publications in any country.

Challenges of legal deposit have been identified by many authors. Adimorah in Akidi (2008) observed that from available statistics, it is very obvious that not all the information resources published in Nigeria are deposited with the National Library of Nigeria. In corroboration, Aina (2017) during a sensitization programme on legal deposit/ ISBN, and ISBN, revealed that the statistics of legal deposit received by the National Library of Nigeria cannot be compared with the number of ISBN assigned, as the legal deposit collected is far less than the ISBN issued to publishers and authors, owing to the level of compliance to legal deposit law. Iwuji (2000) maintained that the extent of collection of legal deposit depends on the enthusiasm, dedication and perseverance of the national library rather than on the willing compliance of the publishers. The author however, lamented on poor management and administration of legal deposit provision and the inability of the publishers to give proper account of their publications. In the same vein, Ogundipe (2005) study revealed that the present National Library of Nigeria legal deposit law is defective, and has not contributed to effective legal deposit system in Nigeria, and therefore requires re-examination of its purpose with emphasis on comprehensiveness of acquisition.

Adio (2006) study revealed among others ineffectiveness of legal deposit laws in Nigeria; that resources deposited are mainly books neglecting other information resources; that publishers are nonchalant in fulfilling the depository obligations; and that public awareness of this law is poor and also that the depository agency is poorly funded. Sulistyo-Basuki (2005) affirmed that various deposit acts in Southeast Asia regions are limited to print resources, which affects the contents or coverage of the national bibliography. The study equally revealed poor compliance to legal deposit owing to the negligence of the publishers, incomplete deposition, weak legal deposit law, regional autonomy which made the publishers stop depositing. This study confirms that lack of comprehensiveness of legal deposit collection is not peculiar to Nigeria. Kakpor (2011) study also revealed low frequency of deposit of non-print information resources by government agencies and individuals that produce them.

However, Penzhorn (2007) suggested that it may be more advisable to adopt civil remedies of negotiation, cooperation and goodwill of publishers in enforcing compliance than criminal sanctions for noncompliance; while enforcing penalties should be used only as a last resort.

As the available literature reviewed portrayed among others, poor legal depository practices and poor compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligation. The study therefore, assesses the effectiveness of legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria and efforts in enhancing compliance.

Research Method

The research method adopted for the study was descriptive survey design. Three objectives guided the study. Instruments for data collection involved structured questionnaire, observation checklist, and documentary evidence. The population of study comprised 736 staff of the National Library of Nigeria. A combination of purposive and complete census sampling technique were used to select and administer questionnaire to four professional departments that are majorly involved in bibliographic control practices, which involved 178 respondents as the sample size used for the study. 178 copies of questionnaire were distributed by the researcher with the help of research assistants. 162 copies were returned, giving 91% response rate.

The data collected were analysed using a combination of descriptive and inferential statistics. Thus, the research questions were analysed using mean and standard deviation. The mean scores were ranked. Real limit of numbers was used in decision taking. 1.00-1.49 denotes Not Effective (NE); 1.50-2.49 denotes Less Effective (LE); 2.50-3.49 denotes Highly Effective (HE); 3.50-4.00 denotes Very Highly Effective (VHE). Furthermore, the hypotheses were tested using analysis of

variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance. The decision rule was to reject the null hypotheses when $p < 0.05$, and to accept the alternative hypothesis. Data collected from observation checklist was analysed using table and percentages to indicate available (A) and not available (NA).

Results and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Legal Deposit Practices Available in the National Library of Nigeria Observation Checklist

Items	A	NA
1. Collection of legal deposit of print resources like books	√	
2. Collection of electronic resources	√	
3. Collection of legal deposit of thesis and dissertations		√
4. Collection of legal deposit of government resources	√	
5. Collection of legal deposit of serials	√	
6. Collection of legal deposit of non-print resources like CDs and audio-visual materials	√	
7. Ensuring direct delivery by publishers and authors to any of National Library offices nationwide	√	
8. Maintaining periodic legal deposit drive to ensure timely delivery of the publications	√	
9. Establishes effective clerical routine of processing, registration and receipt of legal deposit materials	√	
10. Checking records and following-up those publishers and authors that did not deposit complete number or did not deposit at all.	√	
11. Provides enlightenment campaign during ISBN/ISSN assignment	√	
12. Providing periodic sensitization workshop on legal deposit for publishers, authors and other stakeholders	√	
13. Ensuring comprehensive collection of legal deposit materials	√	
14. Ensuring timely collection of legal deposit materials	√	
15. Ensuring that Legal deposit collected reflects the number of ISBN and ISSN given to publishers and authors.		√
16. Placing of collection boxes at government presses and legislative houses.	√	
17. Sending claims letters to publishers for materials not deposited or incomplete deposition	√	
Total	15(88.2%)	2(11.8%)

Key: Available = A; Not Available = NA.

Table 1 above shows the legal depository practices available in the National Library of Nigeria. It reveals the availability of 15 legal deposit practices, which involve the following: collection of legal deposit of print, e-resources, government resources, serials, and non-print resources. The findings also revealed ensuring direct delivery of publishers and authors to the NLN offices, maintaining periodic legal deposit drive, providing periodic sensitization programme on legal deposit, ensuring comprehensive collection and timely collection of legal deposit, placing collection boxes at Government Presses and sending claims letters to publishers for materials not deposited or incomplete deposition, among others. Out of the 17 items studied, the items available were 15 (88.2%), while the items not available were 2 (11.8%). This indicates that majority of the items studied were available as legal depository practices.

Table 2: Mean Responses of Respondents on the Effectiveness of the National Library of Nigeria's Legal Depository Practices

(N= 162)

(N= 162)											
S/N	Items	Status						Overall		R	D
		P		PP		NP		Mean	SD		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
1.	Collection of print resources like books	3.41	.60	3.17	0.58	3.29	0.75	3.29	0.64	1 st	HE
2.	National library of Nigeria communicates to publishers and authors about their legal deposit obligations	2.96	.66	3.00	0.6	2.97	0.51	2.98	0.59	2 nd	HE
3	Provides periodic sensitization programme on legal deposit for the stakeholders like publishers, authors, etc.	2.79	.78	2.50	0.52	2.71	.97	2.67	.76	3 rd	HE
4.	Maintains periodic legal deposit drive	2.53	.99	2.50	0.63	2.56	1.05	2.53	0.89	4 th	HE
5.	Provides the state branches with sufficient manpower to carry out its legal deposit obligations	2.43	.91	2.55	0.83	2.85	0.72	2.61	0.82	5 th	HE
6	Utilizes book fairs and book launches to carry out its legal deposit obligations	2.57	.75	2.42	0.51	2.35	0.7	2.45	0.65	6 th	LE
7.	Visits academic institutions to inform them of their legal deposit obligations	2.40	.81	2.08	0.51	2.09	0.76	2.19	0.69	7 th	LE
8.	Collection of serials	2.23	.79	2.08	0.51	1.96	0.72	2.09	0.67	8 th	LE
9.	Dedicates adequate computers for legal deposit of e-resources	2.25	.79	1.75	0.45	2.13	0.71	2.04	0.65	9 th	LE
10	Visits research institutions to inform them of their legal deposit obligations	2.21	.80	2.08	0.79	1.75	0.71	2.01	0.77	10 th	LE
11	Collection of non-print material like CD and audio -visual materials	1.99	.81	2.00	0.43	1.99	0.45	1.99	0.56	11 th	LE
12	Collection of government publication	2.26	.82	1.83	0.58	1.86	0.63	1.98	0.68	12 th	LE
13	Being sufficiently funded to carry out its legal deposit obligations	2.03	.76	2.08	0.51	1.7	0.67	1.94	0.65	13 th	LE
14.	Collection of electronic resources	1.89	1.14	1.92	1.38	1.62	1.06	1.81	1.19	14 th	LE
15	Provides the state branches with adequate logistics to carry out its legal deposit obligations	1.85	0.66	1.42	0.51	1.61	0.67	1.63	0.61	15 th	LE
16	Collection of Theses and Dissertations	1.45	0.76	1.33	0.49	1.25	0.63	1.34	0.63	16 th	NE
	Cluster Mean	2.33	0.80	2.17	0.61	2.17	0.73	2.22	0.72		LE

VHE = Very Highly Effective (4), HE= Highly Effective (3), LE = Less Effective (2), NE= Not Effective (1). R = Rank; D = Decision. P = Professionals; PP = Para-professionals; NP = Non-professionals.

Table 2 above shows the mean responses of the respondents on the effectiveness of the NLN's legal depository practices. Using the principle of real limit of numbers, the results of the data analysis revealed that National Library of Nigeria collects print resources like books (mean = 3.29); communicates to publishers and authors their legal deposit obligations (mean = 2.98); provides periodic sensitization programme on legal deposit for the stakeholders like publishers, authors, etc. (mean = 2.67), employs periodic legal deposit drive (mean 2.53) and provides the state branches with sufficient manpower to carry out its legal deposit obligations (mean = 2.61), are effective on high extent. Furthermore, items 6-15, utilizes book fairs and book launches to carry out its legal deposit obligations, visits academic institutions to inform them of their legal deposit obligations, collection of serials, dedicates adequate computers for legal deposit of e-resources, collection of non-print material like CD and audio -visual resources, collection of

government publication, among others, are less effective, with mean ratings ranging from 2.45 - 1.34. However, item 16, collection of theses and dissertations is not effective at all, with the lowest mean rating of 1.35.

The overall mean shows that National Library of Nigeria collects print resources like books (mean = 3.29) is ranked highest, while collection of theses and dissertations (mean = 1.34) is ranked lowest as regards to effectiveness of the NLN's legal depository practices. Data presented in the Table show that the cluster mean is 2.22, which indicates less effectiveness of the National Library of Nigeria's legal depository practices.

The findings revealed that the effectiveness of the National Library of Nigeria legal depository practices is on a low as only five of the sixteen items studied were rated highly effective. The findings on legal depository practices are low because the practices lack comprehensiveness of collection, as only books are collected in large numbers, few serials and government publications are collected, while other resources are either minimally collected or not collected at all. This lack of comprehensiveness could be attributed to the challenge of coping with the ever-increasing growth of e-resources as a result of information explosion and the new pattern of publishing in the digital age; identification and collection of e-resources in the legal deposit effort; lack of cooperation or synergy with academic and research institutions in order to collect copies of their research output, among others. Adequate logistics not being provided to state branches to enhance their effectiveness in legal deposit collection; and the National Library of Nigeria not being adequately funded to embark on regular legal deposit drives. These make the practice to lack timeliness of deposit as many publishers do not deposit as soon as published.

The findings of the study are in line with Iwuji (2000), who lamented on poor management and administration of legal deposit provision and the inability of the publishers to give proper account of their publications. The findings are also in conformity with Ogundipe (2005) who asserted that the present legal deposit law is defective, and has not contributed to effective legal deposit system in Nigeria, and therefore requires re-examination of its purpose with emphasis on comprehensiveness of acquisition.

However, from the checklist adopted for the study, it was corroborated that the National Library is effective on a high extent in the collection of print resources, serials, and government documents, while ineffectiveness was revealed in the collection of non-print resources, audio-visual resources, e-resources, and theses and dissertations. Furthermore, collection of some of these resources was equally corroborated to be ineffective, through documentary evidence, which involved looking at components of the materials published in the National Bibliography

of Nigeria (NBN). The NBN, which is the by-product of legal deposit, was examined to know the extent of what is published, which is based on what is collected as legal deposit. This documentary evidence corroborated lack of comprehensiveness of collection of legal deposit, as legal depository library cannot publish beyond what is collected. A cursory look at any edition of NBN reveals more of print resources, which is an indication that the coverage is not adequate as the law establishing legal deposit obligation stipulated that all kinds of resources in whatever form published, including e-resources are subject to legal deposit. Thus, comprehensiveness as a criterion for assessment of legal deposit is not satisfactorily achieved in Nigeria.

The findings are in contrast with Nwosu (2013) who opined that the unique feature of legal deposit provision is its exhaustiveness as it encompasses all forms in which documentary or oral records are published. The findings also do not conform with Lariviere (2000) assertion that the objects of legal deposit comprise print resources and non-print resources, and that the advent of new formats, including digital/electronic publications, has raised new issues, and makes it necessary that digital /electronic publications are included as part of a National Library's heritage collection. The findings are also not in line with the *National Library of Nigeria Facts on Legal Deposit* and National Library Act No 29 of 1970, section four subsection seven (a-e), which specified the kind of information resources to be deposited with the National Library by stating what 'book' comprises.

The findings on lack of comprehensiveness of collection supports Kakpor (2011) study which revealed low frequency of deposit of non-print information resources by government agencies and individuals that produce them. Even if some non-print resources are deposited in the National Library of Nigeria, if they are not processed and listed in the NBN, they are as good as not being collected at all. Lack of comprehensiveness of collections is however, not peculiar to Nigeria as studies revealed that many other countries like South-East Asia (Indonesia), Malaysia, Zimbabwe, among others are suffering the same problem.

Timeliness of deposit is not also guaranteed, as some publishers deposit at will, probably when they need to collect more ISBN, and not as soon as published as the law stipulates. National Library of Nigeria periodic legal deposit drive is however, helping to ensure timeliness but staff of the state branches who are close to some of these publishers in the various States of the Federation based on the findings, are not provided with adequate logistics to enable them effectively go on legal deposit drives more often. It is necessary for the legal depository library to be more proactive in ensuring timeliness of collection of legal deposit and equally provide all the necessary logistics that will assist the state branches to carry out effective legal deposit drives. This is also in agreement with Iwuji (2000) who was of the opinion that the extent of

collection of legal deposit depends on the enthusiasm, dedication and perseverance of the national Library rather than on the willing compliance of the publishers.

Table 3: Mean Responses of Respondents on the Effectiveness of the NLN in enhancing compliance of authors and publishers with legal depository obligations

		(N= 162)								R	D
S/N	Items	Status						Overall			
		P Mean	SD	PP Mean	SD	NP Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
1	Ensuring direct delivery by publishers and authors to any of National Library offices nationwide	2.95	.93	2.98	.82	2.78	.93	2.90	.89	1 st	HE
2	Maintaining periodic legal deposit drives	2.86	.85	2.91	1.1	2.59	.89	2.79	.95	2 nd	HE
3	Provides periodic sensitization programme on legal deposit for the stakeholders like publishers, authors etc.	2.79	.78	2.50	.52	2.71	.70	2.67	.77	3 rd	HE
4	Providing enlightenment campaigns/programmes during ISBN/ISSN assignment	2.71	.81	2.64	.70	2.47	.77	2.61	.76	4 th	HE
5	Checking records and following-up those publishers and authors that did not deposit complete number or did not deposit at all	2.34	.80	2.98	.64	2.41	.69	2.58	.71	5 th	HE
6	Establishment of effective clerical routine of registration and receipt of legal deposit material	2.48	.75	2.55	.97	2.59	.67	2.54	.80	6 th	HE
7	Receiving legal deposit materials through the post	2.44	.82	2.15	.66	2.28	.51	2.29	.66	7 th	LE
8	Liaising with government departments and government printers in collection of legal deposit	2.37	.77	2.15	.59	2.25	.50	2.26	.62	8 th	LE
9	Use of posters/handbills, and appeals on electronic media, which remind publishers and authors of their obligation	2.25	.08	2.17	.64	2.25	.65	2.22	.70	9 th	LE
10	Examination of announcement and advertisements in national and local newspapers so as to know about new publications	2.21	.78	2.02	.64	2.19	.62	2.14	.68	10 th	LE
Cluster Mean		2.54	.81	2.51	.73	2.45	.72	2.50	.75		HE

VHE = Very Highly Effective (4), HE= Highly Effective (3), LE = Less Effective (2), NE= Not Effective (1). R= Rank; D = Decision. P = Professionals; PP = Para-professionals; NP = Non-professionals.

The Table shows the mean ratings of the respondents on the effectiveness of the NLN in enhancing compliance of authors and publishers with legal depository obligations. Using the principle of real limit of numbers, the results of the data analysis revealed that out of nine items in the Table, six items, which include ensuring direct delivery by publishers and authors to any of National Library offices nationwide (mean = 2.90); maintaining periodic legal deposit drives (mean = 2.79), providing periodic sensitization programme on legal deposit for the stakeholders like publishers, authors, etc. (mean = 2.67), providing enlightenment campaigns during ISBN/ISSN assignment (mean = 2.61), checking records and following-up those publishers and authors that did not deposit complete number or did not deposit at all (mean = 2.58), and establishment of effective clerical routine of registration and receipt of legal deposit materials (mean = 2.54) are highly effective. Items 7-10, receiving legal deposit materials through the post, liaising with government departments and government printers in collection of legal

deposit, use of posters/handbills, and appeals on electronic media, which remind publishers and authors of their obligation, and examination of announcement and advertisements in national and local newspapers so as to know about new publications, are less effective, with ratings ranging from 2.29 to 2.14, respectively.

The overall mean shows that ensuring direct delivery by publishers and authors to any of National Library offices nationwide (mean = 2.90) is ranked highest, while examination of announcement and advertisements in national and local newspapers so as to know about new publications (mean = 2.14) is ranked lowest as regards to effectiveness of the NLN in enhancing compliance of authors and publishers with legal depository obligations. Data presented above shows that the cluster mean is 2.50. This indicates that majority of the items on effectiveness of the NLN in enhancing legal depository compliance of publishers and authors are rated high.

The findings showed high level of effectiveness in ensuring compliance as five out of the nine items studied were rated highly effective. From the observation checklist it was found that since the ISBN Agency hinges collection of more ISBN on justification of the previously assigned numbers, publishers are compelled to deposit their resources before collecting more ISBN, which has improved legal deposit compliance. The study further revealed that the National Library provides periodic sensitization programme on legal deposit for the stakeholders, provides enlightenment campaign during ISBN/ISSN assignment, and also ensures periodic legal deposit drive both at the headquarters and at the state branches in order to achieve timeliness. The study also revealed that the National Library of Nigeria engages in checking of records and following up those publishers and authors that did not deposit complete numbers or did not deposit at all; and also establishes clerical routine of registration and receipt of legal deposit materials so as to note publishers that are complying with the law and probably compensate them with awards.

The trend of the NLN's effectiveness in enhancing compliance of publishers and authors on legal deposit obligation could be attributed to strategic efforts of ensuring that publishers and authors justify full utilization of previously assigned ISBNs before more ISBNs are assigned. The National Library of Nigeria endeavours to ensure that no publisher or author collects ISBN without presenting acknowledgement letters for the legal deposit made on the previously assigned ISBNs. In addition, clerical routine of registration and checking of records and thereby following up publishers, legal deposit drives and involving state branches in legal deposit collection have equally helped in ensuring compliance.

The findings are in line with the UNESCO (1991) guidelines for the collection of legal deposit of information resources, which were incorporated into the National Library of Nigeria

Act No 29 of 1970. National Library of Nigeria also adopts enlightenment of publishers and authors at the point of collecting ISBN, ISSN and preparation of CIP data, which enables them to promptly comply by bringing the legal deposit copies immediately the publication is out so as to give them the opportunity of collecting more international standard numbers.

However, the study also revealed the need for the National Library to improve on the use of posters and handbills, and also appeals on electronic media like radio and television; examination of announcements, and advertisements in national dailies and local newspapers to know about new publications; and liaising with government departments and government printers, so as to enhance effective compliance with legal depository obligations. It is also necessary to elicit the cooperation of publishers so as to ensure better compliance as Penzhorn (2007) averred that it may be more advisable to adopt civil remedies of negotiation, cooperation and goodwill of publishers in enforcing compliance than criminal sanctions for noncompliance; while enforcing penalties should be used only as a last resort.

Test of Hypotheses

H0 1: There is no significant difference in the professionals, para-professionals and non-professionals' mean rating of legal deposit obligations and ensuring compliance

Table 4: ANOVA Analysis of the Mean Ratings of Responses of professionals, para-professionals and non-professionals' on legal deposit obligations and ensuring compliance

	Sum of	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Squares				
Between Groups	1.537	2	.769	.881	.417
Within Groups	138.808	159	.873		
Total	140.346	161			

Dependent variable: level of legal deposit obligation and ensuring compliance

The ANOVA analysis presented in Table 4 shows the f-value of .881 at $p > 0.05$ level of significance indicates that the result is not significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis of there is no significant difference in the professionals, para- professionals and non- professionals mean ratings of legal deposit obligations in ensuring compliance is accepted.

The findings on the mean ratings of responses of professionals, para- professionals and non-professionals' on legal depository practices in ensuring compliance show that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of these three categories of staff. The findings indicate that the mean ratings of the three different categories of respondents depict that their responses were not significantly different, which show that all the categories of staff of the National Library of Nigeria in the area studied are fully involved in the bibliographic control practices.

The reason for lack of significant difference in the responses of the three categories of staff can be seen from the point of view that professionals are supported by the para-professionals in carrying out bibliographic control practices and are therefore conversant with the practices. In addition, the non-professionals, majorly the library assistants are mostly involved in routine duties in bibliographic practices, but as a result of years of experience on the job, have acquired impressive knowledge of the professional duties, thereby becoming conversant with bibliographic control practices. From the data gathered, some of the non-professional staff have even acquired degree in Library Science and are awaiting conversion.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made to the management of the National Library of Nigeria, stakeholders and other relevant authorities to enhance effective legal depository practices and compliance of authors, which will invariably engender effective bibliographic control practices in Nigeria:

1. As legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria are devoid of comprehensiveness of coverage of all national publication output, despite efforts at enhancing compliance, the Agency should make adequate efforts to record comprehensive collection of more serials, government documents, theses, dissertations, e-resources, and other non-print resources, which form part of legal deposit. The National Library of Nigeria should embark on regular legal deposit drives and also provide the State branches with adequate logistics to enhance effective legal deposit drive at the States and grassroots levels. It is also important to visit academic and research institutions in order to collect their research output and thereby help in avoidance of duplication of research efforts.
2. The Federal government should provide adequate fund to the National Library of Nigeria to be able to carry out regular and effective legal deposit drives, and equally enable embarking on adequate and regular sensitization workshops on legal deposit and compliance.
3. National Library of Nigeria should ensure timeliness of deposit of legal deposit resources. Since the legal deposit law emphasized ‘‘as soon as published’’, the earlier these resources are collected the better both in enabling speedy processing and listing in the NBN and also timely production of NBN, providing quick access to users and also avoidance of loss of publications that may quickly go out of print. The use of posters, handbills and appeals on electronic media, examination of announcements and adverts, more regular sensitization programmes on legal deposit, among others should be addressed so as to adequately reach the stakeholders; and equally enforce penalties as the last resort on defaulters.

4. The National Library of Nigeria can effectively enhance her legal depository practices and sustain compliance of publishers and authors by maintaining effective regular and timely legal deposit drive, sustenance of effective clerical routine of registration for ISBN and ISSN and receipt of legal deposit materials so as to identify publishers that collected ISBN/ISSN and follow up for compliance to the legal deposit obligation. It is also the responsibility of the National Library to effectively check records and follow up those publishers that are non-challant in depositing their publications and also identify those that deposited incomplete copies. Effective regular examination of announcements and adverts in the national and local dailies is also important in order to get information on new publications/ book reviews, which will help the institution to go for legal deposit drive and appeal to those authors and publishers to deposit the required copies. Effective use of handbills and posters will also ginger compliance. The handbills should be distributed to the publishers and authors when they come for ISBN, during legal deposit drives and also at sensitization workshops, while the posters should be mounted at strategic areas of the library and major towns and cities for enlightenment campaign.
5. Enforcement of legal deposit obligations and ensuring compliance requires providing mechanisms for enforcement, which studies conducted revealed that National Library has not been able to prosecute any offender. As the last resort, the recalcitrant defaulters should be prosecuted to form a deterrent to others. It is equally recommended that imposing penalties on offenders or prosecuting them may not actually and completely enhance compliance, rather, experiences of the developed world like the United Kingdom should be copied, which stipulate that prompt claim by the bibliographic agency had always paid off and made significant impact on compliance. Thus, the National Library of Nigeria should encourage and enhance compliance through efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness of legal deposit drives. Timeliness as recommended by IFLA presupposes that publications should be deposited as soon as published. Timeliness will also be of value to publishers for promoting their publications that are subsequently listed in the national bibliography.
6. It is also recommended that the National Library of Nigeria should create adequate awareness on their services through electronic and social media just like other federal government parastatals and agencies. This will make the public, which include publishers and authors, know about their legal deposit obligations, understand its importance/ benefits and thereby comply willingly.

7. The National Library should encourage publishers that promptly deposit their publications directly to the National library office nationwide. Thus, annual award for the best publisher of the year should be resuscitated.
8. Furthermore, the Nigerian government should bring up legal deposit law in policy formulation, re-address the need for making legal deposit a must for publishers and authors and also buttress on the consequences of non-compliance. Bringing up legal deposit matters in policy formulation will revitalize the law and also ensure that National Library sustains the effort in ensuring compliance.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the effectiveness of the legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria is not satisfactory as it recorded less effective. Though the effort at enhancing compliance of publishers and authors is satisfactory as it recorded highly effective, it is imperative for the Agency to be more proactive in her efforts so as to have an overall impact in her legal depository practices.

The study revealed that where effectiveness of legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria are on a low extent, many of the country's publication output would not be collected, which invariably affects production of National Bibliography of Nigeria. The study therefore established that a lacuna exists in comprehensiveness of coverage of legal deposit collected, which consequently affects the comprehensive coverage of resources listed in the National Bibliography of Nigeria. The study has also provided empirical evidence supporting comprehensive and timely collection of legal deposit. Having identified the strengths and weaknesses of the National Library of Nigeria legal depository practices, it is important that the recommendations are applied so as to engender an improved legal depository practices and compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations.

The study has proved beyond reasonable doubt that the tenets of the five laws of Library Science by S.R. Ranganathan, which can be summarized as providing adequate and right information resources to the right users and at the right time, are tenable and appropriate especially with the National Library's implementation of effective legal depository practices and enhancement of compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations. The laws bring into perspective the ever-increasing role of the National Library in ensuring availability, accessibility, and utilization of information resources, as captured in the NLN's vision "to ensure the building of an informed and enlightened citizenry through the provision of information resources that are readily available and easily accessible".

The study therefore brings to bear the need for provision of effective legal depository practices and enhancement of compliance and therefore equally makes it pivotal that the recommendations are applied so as to engender an improved legal depository practices and enhanced compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations.

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